



DIGEST

Around and About

PICKING THEIR way past remaining workmen and stacks of wallboard, seven departments have moved into their offices in the new \$35 million 19-story Criminal Courts building on Temple street. Already ensconced are the superior court (35 courtrooms), municipal court (27 courtrooms), the County clerk, marshal, public defender, and branch offices of the sheriff and medical examiner-coroner. The D-A staff will begin its move about Oct. 15. . . . In another switch, new health services director Liston Witherill and his top aides will migrate from the Medical Center to offices in the Health Administration building, Temple and Figueroa streets. They'll occupy the seventh floor Dec. 1, the eighth floor Feb. 1.

ROBERT LEONETTI has been named to the new post of chief deputy director of personnel. Louis Cornell replaces him as deputy director of compensation and classification.

EMPLOYEES RETIRING with more than 30 years County service: James Derry and Nettie Gresham of DPSS; Mabel Jones and Thelma Scruggs, hospitals; Beulah King, municipal court; and W. H. Salyers, sheriff department.

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Health Plans Open Enrollment

DIRECTOR OF personnel Gordon Nesvig has set Oct. 20 through Nov. 3 as an open enrollment period for the five County-sponsored health plans—Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Kaiser, Ross-Loos, and the new Hospital-Only plan (described below).

During this two-week period any fulltime, permanent County employee may enroll himself or his dependents in any of the plans without "evidence of insurability"—that is, filing a health statement.

This will be the first open enrollment period since September 1971.

"We expect four groups of employees will want to take advantage of this enrollment," Nesvig said. "They are employees not now enrolled under any County health plan; those who want to switch from one plan to another; those who want to add dependents to their present coverage; and those who previously applied for coverage for themselves or their dependents and were turned down for medical reasons."

Nesvig said employees already enrolled in a health plan who do not wish to make any changes in their coverage will not be affected by the open enrollment period.

All four of the comprehensive health plans (Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Ross-Loos, Kaiser) provide for hospital care, surgery, and other medical benefits, but with varying arrangements.

Two of the plans, Kaiser and Ross-Loos, are "group practice" systems with their own doctors and

medical offices. Kaiser operates 18 offices in Los Angeles and Orange counties and five hospitals in Hollywood, Bellflower, Panorama City, Inglewood, and Harbor City. Ross-Loos has 13 offices; it sends most of its hospital cases to Queen of Angels hospital or Santa Fe hospital, both near downtown Los Angeles, or to Holy Cross hospital in San Fernando valley. Ross-Loos subscribers, however, may be reimbursed for covered hospital expenses in any licensed hospital.

The two other plans, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, permit the subscriber to select his own doctor and hospital.

Details on each plan's benefits are available from payroll clerks or the personnel office in each County department. The same offices also have enrollment forms and payroll deduction authorization cards.

Those who enroll during the open period will have first deductions for the new coverage from their Dec. 8 paychecks. Benefits will begin Jan. 1.

Hospital-Only Plan

FULLTIME, PERMANENT employees also may subscribe during the open enrollment period to a new Hospital-Only type of insurance.

Nesvig said employees who already carry one of the comprehensive health plans (Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Ross-Loos, Kaiser) may use the new policy to supplement benefits paid under those plans, but may not receive more than 100 percent

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What Health Plans Cost

THE TABLE below shows the monthly premiums charged by the four comprehensive County-sponsored health plans under contracts that run until next Aug. 31. The County contributes up to \$19 a month toward the premium of one health plan per employee. The employee pays any amount over this through payroll deductions, shown in the righthand column.

	<u>Total premium</u>	<u>Employee pays</u>
BLUE CROSS		
Employee only coverage	\$18.75	Nothing
Plus one dependent	\$38.74	\$19.74
Plus two or more dependents	\$43.46	\$24.46
BLUE SHIELD		
Employee only coverage	\$19.55	\$ 0.55
Plus one dependent	\$35.19	\$16.19
Plus two or more dependents	\$39.62	\$20.62
ROSS-LOOS		
Employee only coverage	\$17.84	Nothing
Plus one dependent	\$39.43	\$20.43
Plus two or more dependents	\$49.98	\$30.98
KAISER		
Employee only coverage	\$16.90	Nothing
Plus one dependent	\$33.80	\$14.80
Plus two or more dependents	\$48.39	\$29.39

HEALTH PLANS

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of the covered hospital expenses actually incurred.

Hospital-Only coverage provides up to \$55 a day while hospitalized; up to \$135 a day while in intensive care; up to \$27.50 a day while in an extended care facility; and 80 percent of hospital extras while a bed patient. The limit is 365 days for each covered disability.

The policy does not cover maternity expenses, surgeons' fees, outpatient x-ray and laboratory services, or doctors' visits at home or office. In case of accidental injury, however, the policy does provide

\$300 for doctor, hospital, and other expenses.

Monthly premiums for Hospital-Only policies are \$4.42 for the employee only; \$10.89 for employee and one dependent; and \$15.80 for employee and two or more dependents.

If the employee is receiving the County contribution on a comprehensive health plan, he must pay the entire Hospital-Only premium himself. If he does not subscribe to one of the other plans, the County will pay his Hospital-Only premium.

As with the other plans, Hospital-Only coverage begins next Jan. 1.

Retirement Ceiling Will Go to 100%

THE CEILING on County employees' retirement allowances, now set at 75 percent of the final or highest year's pay, will be lifted to a maximum of 100 percent starting next spring.

The change, contained in Assembly bill 536 which Gov. Ronald Reagan signed into law last month, will affect only employees having 30 years or more service.

The bill goes into effect 61 days after adjournment of next January's veto session, or about March 15. It provides that longtime employees shall continue to build retirement credits after 30 years.

Thus, a worker who retired with 40 years service at age 60 would get an 87 percent pension. If he retired at age 65 with 38½ years service, he would receive the maximum allowance of 100 percent. If, at 65, he had 30 years service, his allowance would be 78 percent.

The bill also provides that present employees' contributions to the retirement fund shall stop after 30 years' service, as they now do. But employees hired after the effective date of the law next March shall continue to contribute as long as they work for the County.

Indians May Organize

A 12-MAN organizing committee has called a meeting to form a Los Angeles County American Indian Employees association. The County already has Chicano, Black, and Asian associations. The Indian group will meet at 6 p.m. Oct. 16, room 1184, New Hall of Records.

County of Los Angeles

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